

North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

www.nganews.com

Legal Organ of Union County

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1909

July 18, 2018

UCSO seizes 6 kilos of meth worth \$600,000

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Editor

Detectives with the Narcotics Division of the Union County Sheriff's Office made their biggest ever bust of crystal methamphetamine on Tuesday, July 10, confiscating 6 kilos of meth worth approximately \$600,000 in street value.

UCSO Capt. Chad Deyton, Lt. Tyler Miller and Deputy Drew Stewart worked the case, which culminated in the record-setting seizure of three arrests on the evening of July 10.

The investigation started in June, when the sheriff's office received information that a woman named Janice Hall had been selling meth out of a residence in the south end of the

county, said Capt. Deyton. "We conducted an investigation and made several buys from Janice Hall," said Capt. Deyton. "We executed a search warrant (July 10) on her residence, where we located roughly 6 kilos of methamphetamine and approximately \$3,000 worth of cash. Two vehicles were seized

See UCSO, Page 2A



L-R: UCSO Lt. Tyler Miller, Sheriff Mack Mason, Capt. Chad Deyton and Deputy Drew Stewart with the Narcotics Division's latest haul: 6 kilos of crystal meth and nearly \$3,000 in seized cash. Photo by Shawn Jarrard



Janice Hall



Troy Hall



Melinda Smallen

Missing teens found 'safe and unharmed' in Franklin, TN

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Editor

Authorities have located two teens who were missing from Union County since July 3, according to the Union County Sheriff's Office.

Kirstin Ledford and Cole Garrett, both 16, were discovered about four hours away by law enforcement in Franklin, Tennessee, at approximately 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 14, according to the sheriff's office.



Kirstin Ledford



Cole Garrett

"Both juveniles have been found safe and unharmed because they were attempting to shoplift ice cream at a Target in Franklin, Tennessee," said UCSO Det. Marc Pilote. "Target notified the police department. "The police came, and upon identifying who the juveniles were, they found out that they were listed as missing

from Union County. Since they were listed as missing, authorities in Franklin elected not to pursue charges on them.

"In turn, they contacted us, and we contacted their parents to go pick them up. Hopefully, they don't run away again."

Early voting for July 24 runoff election ends Friday

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Editor

Early voting for the Georgia Primary Runoff Election is now in its final week, and Election Day is on Tuesday, July 24.

This week, every day through Friday, July 20, registered Union County voters can cast their ballots early at the Union County Registrar's Office between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

The Registrar's Office is located within the Union County Courthouse and will be open to voters even during

lunchtime.

People who voted in the May 22 General Primary Election will have to stay with the same party for the runoff election.

Those who voted nonpartisan in May will need to declare a political party to receive a ballot for the runoff election.

Folks who didn't vote at all during the May 22 primary but were eligible to do so can vote in the July 24 runoff, and should they choose to, they will need to declare a political party to receive a ballot.

Election Day will be on Tuesday, July 24, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and that day, voters should report to one of the 11 pre-assigned Union County voting precincts: Ivy Log, Dooley, Gumlog, Blairsville, Pat Colwell, Trackrock, Coosa, Jones Creek, Owlton, Choestoe and Suches.

Voters are not required to bring their mailed precinct cards, but they must show a photo ID to vote.

For more election information, stop by the Registrar's Office in the courthouse, or call 706-439-6016.

See Early Voting, Page 2A

Union County Rotary Club unveils 'Welcome Wall' in Blairsville



Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris delivering remarks at the July 12 unveiling of the new welcome sign erected by the Rotary Club of Union County, with local Rotary President Harvey S. Cohen, right. Photo/Daniel Duello

By Mark Smith
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Blairsville now has a beautiful new welcome sign, or as local Rotary Club President Harvey S. Cohen refers to it, a new "Welcome Wall" located on the eastbound side of Georgia 515 next to the Park-N-Ride.

As the story goes, several years ago, someone at the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce came up with the idea of building a big welcome sign in Blairsville.

That idea, however, didn't catch on until former Rotary Club of Union County President William "Bill" McGlamery began the push to make it happen two years ago.

Since then, McGlamery and immediate past Rotary President Rick Maddox have been the driving forces over the last two years in getting the Welcome Wall built.

Current President Cohen said that McGlamery also worked closely with another Rotarian, local residential building contractor Harvey B. Cohen, to get the project underway, and former Union County Rotarian Mike Bergman headed the design committee.

Other contributors to the project were Builders First Source, Complete Home Services, North Georgia Stone-

Outdoor Living, Sign Makers of FL/GA, Inc., SS Craftsman, TruForms, Inc. and Lakewood Capital Group.

Together with the Rotary Club and chamber of commerce, these individuals, groups and businesses donated all the money and materials that made the Welcome Wall a reality.

Rotary International is a service organization with a motto of "Service Above Self."

One of Rotary's most important causes is to eradicate polio from the world. Along with the Bill & Melinda Gates

See Welcome Wall, Page 3A

Union County 4-H BB Team places at national championship

Dills takes First Place, team finishes 32nd in nation

Union County 4-H BB Team places at national championship

News Special
North Georgia News

Congratulations to the Union County 4-H BB Team for its strong showing at the 53rd Annual Daisy National BB Gun Championship.

The team traveled to Rogers, Arkansas, to compete with the best of the best BB gun shooters from all over the country between June 29 and July 3.

Josh and Katelyn Ledford, Tanner McGee, Luci Talton, Peyton Denham and Kade Dills made up the 2018 national competitors hailing from Union County.

Overall, the team finished in 32nd Place, and Kade Dills, son of Aaron and Angie Dills, brought home the gold with his First Place victory in the standing position.

Parents and coaches are very proud of the talented young members of the Union County 4-H BB Team, as they have done an outstanding job representing their home county.

The team would like to offer special thanks to everyone in

See 4-H BB Team, Page 6A



Kade Dills

BRMEMC to hold Town Hall Meeting Aug. 7 in Young Harris

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Editor

YOUNG HARRIS – The Blue Ridge Mountain EMC Board of Directors will hold a Town Hall Meeting to discuss the proposed bylaw changes that will appear on the upcoming EMC elections ballot.

All EMC members are invited to attend the Town Hall

Meeting, which will take place at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 7.

The EMC will hold the meeting in the main lobby of its Young Harris headquarters to save money on an external venue.

In the July 12 regular board meeting, BRMEMC Board President Mickey Cummings called the meeting to hold the Town Hall Meeting, stating that he wanted the

membership to have the opportunity to ask the board questions about the potential bylaw changes.

Two proposed bylaw changes will appear on this year's ballot.

Members will be asked to approve the definition of "member in good standing" as it relates to the qualifications for a member to run for the

See Town Hall Meeting, Page 6A

Vol. 109 No. 29 Inside

4 Sections 28 Pages

Arrests 4C
Weather 5C
Churches 2D
Thurs: T-Storms Hi 85 Lo 65
Fri: T-Storms Hi 83 Lo 65
Sat: T-Storms Hi 82 Lo 63

Classifieds 5D
Opinion 4A
Legals 4D
Obits 7C
Sports 2B

8 04875 119314 2

Georgia Mountain Fair

Fair Kickoff
Friday, July 20th
Music by
The Bellamy Brothers

Fair Parade
July 21st 11 AM

Miss GA Mtn.
Fair Pageant
July 23rd

Military Day
July 24th

Butternut Creek Festival

July 21st & 22nd
Meek's Park

HIGH COUNTRY ARTISANS

See page 2C